



March 6, 2000
The Honorable John M. Phillips
Presiding Judge of the Coordinated Trial Courts
Post Office Box 414
Salinas, California 93902

Subject: Response to the 1999 Grand Jury Final Report

Dear Judge Phillips.

This letter is in response to the 1999 Grand Jury Investigation concerning recycling and methamphetamine issues on behalf of King City.

AB 939 REQUIREMENTS

In responding to the matters regarding the Salinas Valley Solid Waste Authority, and the need to address AB 939 requirements, please note that we concur with the February 17, 2000 response of the Authority with respect to their conclusions, statements, and observations. Because of our working relationship and agreement for the Authority to provide enhanced AB 939 services for our community, we join with their submission of information as follows:

FINDINGS

Finding 1. The Member Cities will not meet the recycling goals established by AB 939 by the end of the new 2000 unless immediate steps are taken.

Thee SVSWA agrees with this finding. The legislation AB 939 requires all cites and counties to meet the goal of 25% diversion by the end of 1995 and 50% by the end of 2000. The goal for the rural cities in South County have been adjusted to reflect the following:

	<u>2000 Goal</u>	<u>1998 "Actual"</u>
Greenfield	32.9%	11%
Gonzales	32.1%	-81%
King city	31.4%	-4%

Salinas	50%	15%
Soledad	50%	49%
Unincorporated County	50%	25%

The Authority knows the 1998 "actual" diversion figures to be incorrect due to inaccuracies in the CIWMB waste diversion calculation formula. In September 1999, the CIWMB concurred with this finding for Gonzales, Greenfield and King City.

Finding 2. SVSWA is not responsible for waste reduction but, if requested, will assist the Member Cities in recycling.

The SVSWA agrees with this finding (In addition, SVSWA is actively assisting member cities through a recent agreement to provide enhanced AB 939 assistance.

Finding 3. Citizens, businesses and growers within the SVSWA need incentives to reduce solid waste.

The SVSWA partially agrees with this finding. SVSWA staff believes that incentives are ones of several elements (e.g., education, supporting infrastructure, and materials outlets) necessary to foster waste reduction among residents, businesses and growers.

Finding 4. Agricultural industrial waste has increased. Wax-covered cardboard, field plastic and plastic packaging are difficult to recycle and typically remain in landfills.

The SVSWA agrees with this finding.

Finding 5. As of October 1, 1999 there is no incentive for growers to separate usable waste from green waste.

The SVSWA disagrees partially with this finding. There are currently no reduced rates at the SVSWA landfills to encourage growers to separate materials before hauling to the landfill. However, the business incentives (cost saving) of diverting separated materials from the waste stream are present but not always easily recognized.

Finding 6. In 1998 the amount of disposable waste generated by residents of the member cities of the SVSWA averaged 0.8 tons per person.

The SVSWA disagrees partially with this finding. The SVSWA is uncertain how the Grand Jury arrived at this figure; however, the figure appears reasonable.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1. Member Cities arrange with their respective waste collectors for weekly collection of green waste.

Waste Management, Inc. currently provides weekly collection of residential green waste in King City and biweekly collection in Salinas. Gonzales, Greenfield, and King City have weekly drop-off of green waste. The SVSWA has been empowered by the member cities to review their current service agreements and assess the efficacy and feasibility of expanding certain services including weekly, or other periodic, green waste collection at the curb.

Recommendation 2. Member cities initiate plans with SVSWA to increase the type and amount of materials recycled.

The SVSWA has developed a program called AB939 Enhanced Services, which includes the following services to its member agencies:

1. Reporting
 - Development of new base years and more accurate diversion figures
 - Submittal of AB 939 Annual Reports for each city
 - Modification of the Source Reduction and Recycling Element (SRRE)
 - Semi-annual reports to the member agencies
2. Commercial and Industrial Diversion
 - On-site waste assessments at selected businesses and development of programs to increase diversion for businesses
 - Markets development for difficult materials such as field plastic and wax cardboard
3. Public Education
 - Assist cities in developing or expanding in-house recycling programs
 - Develop broad-based public education program
 - Develop schools recycling programs and educational activities
4. Household Hazardous Waste Program
 - Operate four household hazardous waste sites
 - Operate two used oil collection points
 - Conduct rural one-day collection events
5. Increased Diversion at the Landfills
 - Develop landfill rate incentives to encourage delivery of targeted materials in a

- source- separated manner
- Accept source-separated household recyclable for diversion
- Develop materials recovery programs at selected landfills to recovery construction and demolition waste, green waste cardboard and other materials from uncompacted waste loads

6. Review and Enforce Franchise Agreements

- Evaluate existing franchise agreements to determine what areas can be improved upon
- Conduct performances audits of haulers' current services

Recommendation 3. SVSWA contract with a private sector company to analyze randomly the contents of waste collection trucks at the landfills to determine the amount of recyclable goods.

This recommendation has been implemented. A waste composition study targeting uncompacted waste delivered at SVSWA facilities was completed in October 1999.

Recommendation 4. SVSWA contract with a private sector company to produce saleable compost

This recommendation is in process of implementation. The green waste produced by Green Waste Management in Salinas and hauled to Crazy Horse landfill serves the beneficial use of alternative daily cover. The material at Johnson Canyon Roan Landfill and Jolon Road Landfill is intended to be processed and marketed to a composter on –site for erosion control.

Recommendation 5. SVSWA contract with a private sector company to utilize discarded concrete asphalt and base rock.

The SVSWA will submit to its Board in February 2000 a contract with a local contractor to process accumulated Construction and Demolition material at Crazy Horse landfill. The processed material will then be sold for road base and the residual utilized at the landfill for road construction. A similar program is being planned for Johnson Canyon Road Landfill.

Recommendation 6. SVSWA create incentives for the public, businesses, and growers to reduce landfill waste by increasing or decreasing fees, depending upon the material being discarded

The SVSWA has initiated a program to analyze the cost of processing and marketing

recyclable material (such as wood waste, green waste , appliances and metals) and expects to adjust tipping fees in late spring or early summer of 2000.

Recommendation 7. Member Cities implement and initiate procedures for sale of recyclable items similar to the Environmental Park at the Marina Landfill, including the distribution, at no charge, or discarded paint and household cleaning products

The SVSWA has initiated at its household hazardous materials facility a program for no-cost redistribution of paint and household cleaning products. The SVSWA preferred approach is the diversion of recyclable materials before they reach the solid waste facilities rather than at a resale activity. At a result, the focus is at the source of waste generation, e.g., businesses, schools, and residences.

METHAMPHETAMINE ISSUES

The following response was prepared by Richard Metcalf, Chief of Police for the City of King.

1. *Law enforcement agencies approach the methamphetamine problem, as a distinct entity not related to other drug enforcement activities.*

The addiction to illegal substances is a major problem for all California communities. I has been my experience as a narcotic investigator that the popularity of drugs changes from time to time. In Monterey County I have seen the choice of drugs change from heroin in the 1970's, cocaine in the 1980's and now meth in the 1990's. All of these drugs result in the destruction of families, crime, violence and impact the entire justice system. We will strive for prevention, education and enforcement for all drug and narcotic categories.

2. *Law enforcement agencies be required to submit information concerning all arrests relating to methamphetamine to the press in the form of press releases rather than simply indicating such in the daily activity logs.*

Currently our local paper and radio station have access to our pressboard, which provides more information than the typical police log. We have personal daily contact with our local press and make every effort to provide information regarding arrests for drugs, gang violence, and other newsworthy law enforcement activities. It is common practice for this department to provide the local media with a press release on any significant event that occurs within the city limits.

3. *Law enforcement agencies develop a coordinated communications plan so that methamphetamine information can be effectively shared by all agencies.*

Monterey County law enforcement agencies can more effectively coordinate this information via the county wide CLETS system and the TRACK computers. We will make every effort to utilize existing communication networks to pass on information.

4. *The Monterey County Board of Supervisors (BOS) seek the means for funding special methamphetamine-abatement personnel and programs.*
5. *The BOS seeks the means of funding environmental clean up of legally seized, methamphetamine-related properties, and execute the resale of such properties as a means of funding increased anti-methamphetamine activities.*

The city would support the BOS if funding is available to the county for abatement personnel/programs and environmental clean up of methamphetamine contaminated property.

6. *The BOS and City Councils provide funding for the purchase of a meth-trained canine.*

The city acknowledges the usefulness of a meth-trained canine, however, recent fair labor standards lawsuits involving canine handlers in the state have made the purchase and implementation of canine programs in small agencies cost prohibitive. We will pursue technology being developed which can detect the odor of methamphetamine.

7. *The BOS and City Councils provide funding for the training and placement of more meth-qualified deputies in the field*

The POST Basic Academy requires training in the identification, use and manufacture of methamphetamines. In addition, POST has available excellent advanced officer training tapes on methamphetamines. Our department will continue to provide updated training in the area of meth recognition, use and manufacture.

Richard A. Metcalf
Chief Of Police

The City of King hopes that these responses provide assistance to the Grand Jury. Please contact us with any questions regarding our response. Thank you

Sincerely,


John L. Myers, Mayor